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DDI-1539-77

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

18 APR 1977

Dear Brock:

Attached is a brief memorandum concerning the Soviet fishing violations. As you can see the pressure to meet food demands may conflict with Soviet good intentions, should they be genuine.

Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U.S. Navy

The Honorable Brock Adams
The Secretary of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20590



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12 April 1977

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Fishing Policy

1. Soviet fishing activity reflects a policy aimed at meeting a centrally planned quota at the expense of international conservation efforts. Substantial overfishing by the Soviets in the Atlantic off the U.S. and Canadian coasts has been documented for the last two years (see Intelligence Memoranda 76-10687C, November 1976 and 77-10172C, March 1977). During this period Moscow was aware of the violations that were occurring. Meeting with the central plan was considered more important than conservation, and it was relatively easy to cheat in an international fishing area without facing harsh fines and punishment.

2. Since the U.S. implemented its 200-mile fishing zone, the Soviets have faced a vigilant U.S. patrol. In a little more than one month's time, the Soviets have accounted for more than half the 40 odd fishing violations that have occurred in U.S. waters.

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It identifies the most critical violations, however, overfishing by species and by area of operations. These data, usually received about 90 days after intercept, will have their greatest impact in pointing out the principal areas and fleet units involved in violations.

4. Conversations in Moscow between the U.S. Embassy and First Deputy Minister Kamentsev indicate that the Soviets are attempting to reduce the violations. Kamentsev stated that captains incurring violations would receive punishment and that each captain would be instructed and tested on the bilateral Governing International Fishing Agreement (GIFA) with the U.S. before leaving home port.

5. While these Soviet measures may be commendable, guarded optimism at best is warranted. In our judgment, Soviet official policy will be to attempt to reduce violations in U.S. waters so long as the U.S. maintains strong enforcement measures. Without a strong effort on our part, Soviet sea captains can be expected to continue over-fishing in order to meet Moscow's central plan for increased fish (protein) consumption and for improved foreign exchange earnings through fish exports.

Attachments:

ER 76-10687C,
ER 77-10172C,Cy not
Cy included

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DCI Letter to Secretary of Transportation re Soviet Fishing Violations

CONCUR:

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Deputy Director for Intelligence

12 APR 1977

Date

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